

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 9, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 10-12, 21, 26, and 29-30 and objected to claims 6-9, 13-15, 22-25 and 27. Applicants have amended claims 1, 6-7, 10-12, 14, 21, 23-26 and cancelled claims 13, 22 and 27. Claims 1-5, 6-12, 13-21, 22-26 and 28-30 are pending after entry of this amendment.

I. Rejection of Claims under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mes (US Patent No. 6,539,454). Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 7, reciting an output circuit further comprising a data input pointer and a data output pointer. Claim 1 now overcomes the rejection.

Claims 2-5 and 10-12 are dependent claims, depending upon independent Claims 1 and 7, either directly or indirectly, respectively. Claim 7 has been amended and is an independent claim and reflects the changes to Claim 1. Claims 10-12 were amended to correspond with Claim 7. Claims 2-5 and 10-12 include the limitations of amended Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and now overcome the rejection.

Claims 21, 26, 28-30 are rejected for the same reasons as Claims 1-5, 10-12. Claims 21 and 23-26 have been amended and Claims 22 and 27 have been cancelled. The amended claims now overcome the rejection.

Claims 28-30 are dependent claims depending on independent Claim 26 and include the limitations of amended independent Claim 26. These claims also overcome the rejection based on the reason above.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

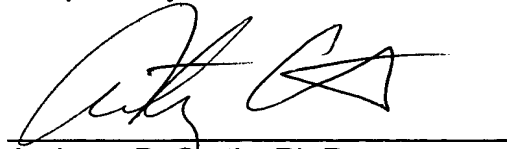
Dependent claims 13-15, 22-25 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Independent claims 11 and 21, the base claims, have been amended and dependent claims 22 and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 13-15 and 23-25 include all of the elements of amended claims 11 and 21 and, for the reasons stated above, now overcome the rejection.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 16-20.

III. Conclusion

In view of the response above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, as well as the application, and seek an early allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.
Registration No. 46,193
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200